

The Covenant Renewal Service

**Providence Reformed
Presbyterian Church**

9124 Sappington Road, St. Louis, MO 63126
314-843-7994 www.providencestlouis.com



The Second Sunday in Advent

December 5, 2010

Welcome

If you are **visiting** our church today, we welcome you to our worship service and Christian community. Please find the registration book in the foyer of the church and help us serve you better by leaving your name and contact information. We promise to keep this information confidential and only use it for personal contact with you and your family. Please join us downstairs for coffee after this morning's service.

We have **Christian education** classes for all ages which meet after the service at 10:50 AM. Children's Sunday school classes meet in the educational wing. The adult class meets in the fellowship hall at 11:00 AM. Evening service will be at 6 PM tonight.

If you are unfamiliar with **our form of worship**, please feel free to speak with one of the Pastors or Elders. We have resources that will help you understand the biblical rationale for why we worship the way we do. Visit our website for articles, essays, and other helpful information on our worship and life at Providence: www.providencestl.com.

The **Lord's Supper** is observed every Sunday as the climax of covenant renewal worship. We invite to the Lord's Table all those who are baptized disciples of Jesus Christ, under the authority of Christ and his body, the Church. By eating the bread and wine with us as a visitor, you are acknowledging to the elders of this local church that you are in covenant with God as an active member of a congregation in which the Gospel is faithfully confessed, taught, and believed. If you have any doubt about your participation, please speak to one of the elders or the pastor before or after the service. **Note:** The middle circle of cups in each tray contains grape juice, the larger outer ring contains wine. (The grape juice has a darker color than the wine.)

Christus Victor (*Front Cover*)



The traditional monograms **IC** and **XC** are ancient Latin abbreviations for **Jesus** (*IHCOYC*, a Latinized form of his Greek name) and **Christ** (*XRICTOC*). **NIKA** means Victor or Conqueror. Jesus Christ was born to conquer sin, death, and the Devil. The cross in the center of the world reminds us that Jesus has conquered by means of his suffering, death, and resurrection. Jesus now reigns *because* he died for us.

Today our Pulpit and Table paraments are purple. Violet or purple is the royal color. During Advent season we pray for and reflect upon the ways in which Christ our King comes to serve us.

The Morning Service

The Lord's Day — December 5, 2010
The Second Sunday in Advent

Preparation For Worship: *Revelation 22:1-21*

Organ - Mr. Bill Hoover

Welcome & Announcements - Pastor Jeffrey Meyers

The Entrance

Silent Preparation

Call to Worship: *Revelation 22:16-17*

Pastor Jeffrey Meyers

†Hymn #145 "Come, thou long expected Jesus" *Trinity Hymnal*

†Salutation & Responsive Scripture

Pastor: In the Name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit!

Congregation: **Amen!**

Matthew 28:19

The Lord be with you!

Ruth 2:4

And also with you!

A voice cries: In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,

Make straight in the desert a highway for our God! *Isa. 40:3*

According to his promise, we wait for a new heavens
and a new earth,

In which righteousness dwells!

2 Peter 3:13

†Pastor: Let us pray to the Lord:

Merciful God, our heavenly Father, you sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation. Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, age after age. Amen!

Purification

†Pastor: Let us humbly bow our heads before the Lord and confess our sins.

O Lord, my heart is not lifted up;

Psalms 131:1-2

My eyes are not raised too high.

I do not occupy myself with things,
Too great and too marvelous for me.

But I have calmed and quieted my soul,
Like a weaned child with its mother.

Let us pray.

O Almighty God, heavenly Father, I have sinned against you and against my neighbor, in thought, word and deed, in the evil I have done and in the good I have not done, through ignorance, through weakness, and through my own deliberate fault. I am truly sorry and repent of all my sins. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, who died for me, forgive me all that is past; and grant that I may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your Name.

†Pastor: Now lift up your heads and hear the good news . . . !

Ascension

†Pastor: Lift up your hearts!

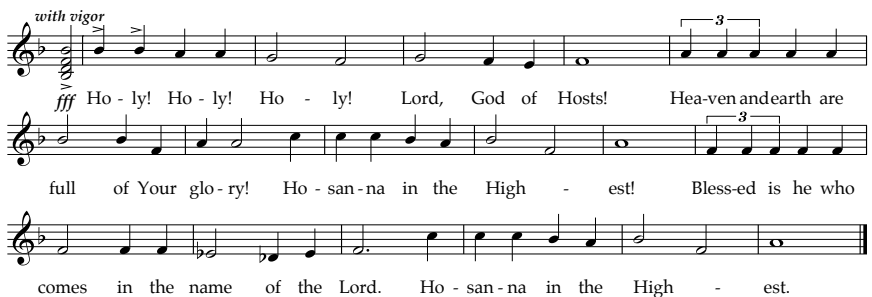
We lift them up to the Lord!

†Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

It is proper and right to do so.

†Truly it is fitting and our greatest joy to give thanks to you at all times and in every place, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God. For you have proven your faithfulness in fulfilling the promise of the birth and ministry of Jesus, and because of this we anticipate the completion of your plan for us and your world in the future. Therefore, with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, and with the church on earth, we praise and magnify your glorious Name, evermore praising you and singing . . .

†The Sanctus



with vigor
fff Ho - ly! Ho - ly! Ho - ly! Lord, God of Hosts! Hea-ven and earth are
full of Your glo - ry! Ho - san - na in the High - est! Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the High - est.



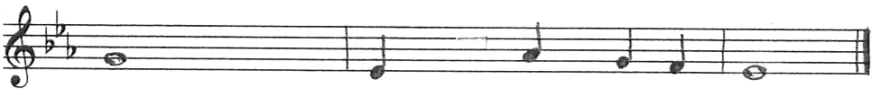
1 My soul doth magni - fy the Lord,
 2 For be - hold from henceforth
 3 He hath shewed strength with his arm;
 4 He hath filled the hungry with good things;
 5 Glory be to the Father:



1 And my spirit hath re - joiced in God my Savior.
 2 All gener - ations shall call me blessed.
 3 He hath scattered the proud in the imagi - nation of their hearts.
 4 And the rich he hath sent empty a - way.
 5 And to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost;



1 For he hath re - garded
 2 For he that is mighty hath done to me great things;
 2b And his mercy is on them that fear him
 3 He hath put down the mighty from their seats,
 4 He hath holpen his servant Is-ra-el, in re - membrance of his mercy;
 5 As it was in the be - ginning,



1 The low es - tate of his handmaiden.
 2 And ho - ly is his Name. (to 2b)
 2b From gener - ation to gen - er - ation.
 3 And exalted them of low de - gree.
 4 As he spake to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed for - ever.
 5 Is now and ever shall be, world without end. A - men.

The Appointed Readings for The Second Sunday in Advent

The Hebrew Scriptures: *Isaiah 11:1-10*

Pastor Joshua Anderson

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

The Epistle Reading: *Romans 15:4-13*

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Hymn "Awake, awake and strengthen"

(to tune of #178)

**Awake, awake and strengthen
The things about to die,
The works yet unperfected,
Before the Lord draws nigh.
But if thou be not watchful,
If thou dost not repent,
The Lord shall come upon thee
When thou dost least expect.**

Text: Adapted from Rev. 3:1-6 by Bill Hoover © 1999 Music: Hans Leo Hassler, 1601 Harm. J. S. Bach, 1729

**For him that overcometh,
This glorious state shall be:
His garments all resplendent
In whitest purity,
His name inscribed forever
Within the Book of Life,
Confessed before the Father
And holy angels bright.**

**But, lo! thou hast a remnant
With garments yet unstained,
Who, undefiled, have labored
And faithful have remained.
They flee from all temptation,
They triumph in the fight;
The Lord hath found them worthy,
And they shall walk in white.**

†The Gospel Reading: *Matthew 3:1-12*

This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ!
Praise be to you, O Christ!

†We Confess our Faith: *The Nicene Creed*

**I believe in one God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of his Father before all worlds: God of God,
Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made;
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made:**

**Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary,
and was made man; and was crucified also for us
under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried;
and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into heaven,
and sits on the right hand of the Father.
And he shall come again with glory to judge both the living**

and the dead whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, and Giver of Life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and
glorified; who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
I acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
And I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen!

†The *Gloria Patri*

Sermon Text: *Acts 9:32-43*

Pastor Jeffrey Meyers

Sermon: **Two Resurrections**

XXII. Exposition of the Acts of the Apostles

†Hymn #148 “Comfort, comfort ye my people” *Trinity Hymnal*

Tribute Offering

We Offer Ourselves Through Tithes and Offerings

Offertory “Of the Father’s love begotten” (see Hymn #122)
arr. Flor Peeters; Barb Hoover, clarinet; Bill Hoover, organ

† [Hands Raised] The *Doxology*

Trinity Hymnal, p. xvi

† [Hands Raised] The Lord’s Prayer

The Sacrifice of Peace

Words of Institution, Prayer of Thanksgiving, & Memorial

We Feed on the Body and Blood of Christ

Communion Hymn #596 “Jesus lives, and so shall I” *Trinity Hymnal*

Pastoral Benediction

†The Song of Simeon (*Nunc Dimittis*): *Luke 2:30-32*

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy Word; for mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou has prepared before the face of all people; A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

†Pastor: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

Congregation: **And his mercy endures forever!**

Pastoral Prayer: Almighty God, you have made all things to serve you; now prepare the world to receive your rule. Come quickly, Lord Jesus, to end war and oppression, to cleanse all corruption, to crush the head of Satan, to destroy death itself, to wipe away every tear, to heal every pain, and to make all things new so that your glory will cover the earth as the waters cover the sea; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Benediction

†Hymn #197 “The day of resurrection”

Trinity Hymnal

†Commission: *Matthew 28:18-20*

†Benediction: *Numbers 6:24-26*

†Three-fold Amen & Postlude

Welcome to Providence Reformed Presbyterian Church, especially those who are visiting with us for the first time today. Please fill out the visitor's registration before the service begins. Join us this evening at 6 PM for fellowship, singing, prayer, and a Scripture lesson.

The Evening Service

Sunday, December 5, 2010 – 6:00 PM

Scripture Reading: *Deuteronomy 18:9-22*

Pastor Jeffrey Meyers

†Hymn #96 “The LORD be praised”

Anglo-Genevan Psalter

Psalm Sing

Prayer Requests & Prayer

Deacons' Fund Collection

†Hymn #27 “If God is on our side”

Anglo-Genevan Psalter

Scripture Reading: *2 Samuel 6:1-23*

Pastor Joshua Anderson

Sermon: “**Bringing up the ark of the LORD**”

Exposition of the Life of David

†Hymn #567 “If thou but suffer God to guide thee”

Trinity Hymnal

†Benediction & Postlude

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Woman of the Week:

Annie Hiers

Today's Nursery Volunteers:

Morning Service – Shields

Sunday School – Greeno

Evening – Weston

Next Week's Nursery Volunteers:

Morning Service – Schmidt

Sunday School – Pratt

Evening – Montgomery

Developing a Biblical Worldview — Join us in the fellowship hall for the adult Sunday school class on developing a biblical worldview. Audio recordings of the class can be found on the church's website.

The **College and Career Sunday School Class** is meeting in the Shields' home. All young adults are welcome. Please see Pastor LeCroy or Steve Schlepphorst for more information.

Memory Listeners — will hear our Covenant children recite their memory work today during Sunday school.

High School Movie Night — On December 11th, the high school group will be going to see the opening day of "Chronicles of Narnia, Voyage of the Dawn Treader". See Phillip Bozarth for more information.

High School Christmas Party — On December 20th, the high schoolers are invited to a church Christmas party. Bring a white elephant gift! The party begins at 7 PM and will be hosted by Phillip and Rachel Bozarth.

Directory Update — Please update your directory with Joe and Lurae's new phone number: 636-587-2290. Voicemail can be left at 636-543-6732

Thank you from the Hoovers — The Hoover family would like to thank you all for your many acts of service and expressions of sympathy following the passing of Barb's stepmother Suzanne Busse, including the comforting presence of so many of you at her memorial service. Thank you for your numerous kindnesses especially to Barb as she continues to minister to her father in his loss.

Announcements Continued

Christmas Lessons & Carols — Our annual Christmas Lessons and Carols Service will be Sunday, December 19 at 6:00 P.M. (Children's Prelude starts at 5:40.) Please note the following:

Reception Help - Please sign up to setup, cleanup, serve refreshments, or to bring cookies or finger food for the reception which will follow the service. The sign up sheet is in the narthex..

Sunday School Music Rehearsals are each Sunday (preschool and elementary rehearsals at 10:50, Youth Choir at 11:30-12:00). Teachers, please attend with your classes.

Youth Choir Dress Code (grades 7-12) - Ladies: white (or closest light colored) blouse or sweater, and black (or closest dark) skirt and hose. Gentlemen: white (or closest light colored) dress shirt, necktie, black (or closest dark) slacks, nice shoes, no jacket. Long sleeves are preferred. Use closest match available; we are not trying to send you out shopping!

Children's Prelude - If your child is taking music lessons and would like to play a short Christmas carol (approx. one minute) as part of the Children's Prelude, please notify Barb or Bill Hoover.

Officer Nominations — For the next several weeks, the session will be receiving officer nominations for next year. Nomination forms are available in the foyer. Several things to keep in mind this year: Elder Joel Montgomery is in his sixth year of service on the session this year, and thus will be taking a sabbatical next year. Elder John Moore has just finished serving a three year term on the session and must be renominated to serve another term. Deacons Bryan Carter and Allen Wamsley are both in their sabbatical year now and are thus eligible for renomination for next year.

Church Calendar

<i>Tuesdays</i>	7 AM Men's Bible Study
<i>Wednesdays</i>	7 PM Choir Rehearsal
<i>Thursdays</i>	9:30 AM Ladies Bible Study
December 11	High School Movie Night - Narnia
December 19	6 PM Christmas Lessons & Carols Service
December 20	7 PM High School Christmas Party
Dec 29 - Jan 5	New Orleans Mission Trip

The Lord's Service Explained

Advent Season 2010

The English word Advent is derived from the Latin *advenire*, "to come to." Advent has to do with the Lord's coming to us. The Lord *has* come to us (at the birth of Christ), *regularly* comes to us (especially on the Lord's Day), and *will* come to us (bodily again at the end of this age). Advent season, then, is a time to reflect upon all of the ways—past, present, and future—in which the Lord comes to us. Please remember that the purpose of Advent is not to imagine ourselves to be living at the time immediately preceding Christ's birth and so somehow *pretend* that we are waiting for him to be born. It is not time for a spiritual game of "make believe." Neither is the purpose of Advent to think sentimental thoughts about the baby Jesus. There is no real spiritual power in any of this. The purpose of Advent is to *expect* and *pray* for the coming of the Lord.

Although our own hymnal does not separate out Advent from Christmas hymns, a quick glance at any of the traditional Advent hymns will confirm that they petition the Lord to come (see #231, 145-149, and 235-243). During Advent we *remember* his first coming (he kept his promises to his people in the OT) and we pray that the Lord will remember his *promises* and come to us again, judging the enemies of the Church and delivering his people from all evil. During Advent season we petition the Lord to come again to us, both now and finally at the end of the age.

Use either the opening corporate prayer or the closing pastoral prayer from the service this morning in your family and/or individual devotions this week. The traditional Advent hymn #145 should be sung all this week.

An Advent wreath can be used to enhance your family devotions, but there is no need to attach any significance to each individual candle. All four candles can be the same color—dark blue or purple. Some modern Advent devotional schemes err in encouraging us to pretend we are living before Jesus' birth. It is best to use the Scripture readings below, reflecting on the way God keeps his covenantal promises. The family should reflect on all the ways the Lord comes to help us.

Advent Scripture Readings – This Week

Monday, Dec. 6	Isaiah 9:8–10:11	1 Peter 5:1-14	Psalm 25
Tuesday, Dec. 7	Isaiah 10:12-34	2 Peter 1:1-21	Psalm 40
Wednesday, Dec. 8	Isaiah 11:1–12:6	2 Peter 2:1-22	Psalm 85
Thursday, Dec. 9	Isaiah 14:1-23	1 Peter 3:1-18	Psalm 14
Friday, Dec. 10	Isaiah 24:1-13	1 John 1:1–2:14	Psalm 126
Saturday, Dec. 11	Isaiah 24:14–25:12	1 John 2:15-25	Psalm 130

Officers and Resource People

The Session (Pastors & Elders)

Rev. Jeffrey J. Meyers	314-842-9329 (O)	John Moore	314-984-9869
Senior Pastor	314-842-9309 (H)	Ken Pratt	314-416-1176
Rev. Josh Anderson (Assoc)	314-968-5114	Monte Shields	314-849-0597
Jason Carter	636-257-2441	Brad Wood (Clerk)	636-587-9211
Joel Montgomery	314-984-8074		

The Deacons

Jack Boeve (Chairman)	636-461-1398	Steve Shaffer	314-843-1964
Bill Coller	314-726-6799	Paul Svezia	314-406-9101
Rick Gibbs	636-451-3463	Rodney Weedman	314-846-0210
Dan Hayes	314-984-9814	Bob Wooldridge	314-963-9671
Daryl Hoegemann	314-962-4874		

Women in the Church Officers

President: Denise Gerstung	314-821-9324	Nursery: Kathy Pratt	314-416-1176
Vice President: Judy Linton	636-349-9028	Anne Hiers	314-543-3010
Secretary/Treasurer:		Bethel: Rachel LeCroy	314-604-2089
Lori Shaffer	314-843-1964	Kitchen: Rosamma Weston	314-205-2018
Committee Coordinator:		Tracy Boeve	636-461-1398
Rhonda Hoard	636-938-3575	Hospitality: Barb Hoover	314-966-3523
WIC advisor: Joanie Harris	636-394-6896	Joanie Harris	636-394-6896
Prayer Chain: Doris Daily	314-961-8799	Amanda Cone	314-497-7950
Carol Van Heest	314-966-5732	Wedding Coordinator:	
Brenda Svezia	svezia@sbcglobal.net	Barb Hoover	314-966-3523
Missions: Debbie Keane	636-938-3108		

Church Staff

Rev. Jeffrey J. Meyers	314-842-9329 (O)	Rev. Tim Weston	314-205-2018 (Home)
Senior Pastor	314-842-9309 (H)	Pastor to International Students	814-2019 (Cell)
Rev. Joshua Anderson	314-814-5213 (Home)	Rev. Timothy LeCroy (Ast. Pastor)	314-604-2088
Associate Pastor	314-814-5213 (Cell)	Bill Hoover (Music Dir.)	314-966-3523
Paul Jaeggi, Sr.	314-843-7994 (Church)	Melanie Carter (Secretary)	636-271-7288
Asst. to the Pastor	314-631-4394 (Home)		

Pastoral Interns

Phillip Bozarth	270-313-6245	Scott Pitts	314-974-1364
Ryan Van Horn	314-620-3744	Steve Schlepffhorst	217-257-2592

Home and Foreign Ministries

Ross Dixon	RUF Ministry (Mizzou)	Blake & Cathy Purcell	Russia
Garrett & Michelle Crow	Santa Clarita, CA	John & Cathy Rug	Chile
Jamison & Laura Galt	New York City	Brian & Jessie Steadman	New York City
Shane & Kim Gibson	New Orleans, LA	Lian & Clara Tombing	India
Bryan Walker	US Army Chaplain	Marcus Toole	Canada
Daniel & Stephanie McKinney	Salt Lake City	Tim & Rosamma Weston	ISI (St. Louis)
Emad & Michelle Mikhail	Middle East	Dan & Beckv Young	Mexico